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Attorney Docket No. 5051.616IP

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Ben-Bassat et al.

Confirmation No.: 5764

Application Serial No.: 09/997,664

Group Art Unit: 1652

Filed: November 28, 2001

Examiner: D. Steadman

For: *Method for production of p-hydroxybenzoate in species of Pseudomonas and Agrobacterium*

Date: December 23, 2003

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Response to Restriction Requirement

Sir:

This is responsive to the Office Action mailed November 26, 2003 regarding the above-referenced patent application.

Election of Claims

In the Office Action, the pending claims 1-20 have been restricted as follows.

Group I: Claims 1-2, 5-8 and 18, drawn to an isolated nucleic acid fragment of SEQ ID NO:113, a plasmid, and a transformed host cell, classified in class 435, subclass 252.3.

Group II: Claims 1-2, 5-8 and 11, drawn to an isolated nucleic acid fragment of SEQ ID NO:114 and a transformed host cell, classified in class 435, subclass 252.3.

Group III: Claims 1-2, 5-8 and 11, drawn to an isolated nucleic acid fragment of SEQ ID NO:115 and a transformed host cell, classified in class 435, subclass 252.3.

Group IV: Claims 3-4, drawn to a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:116, classified in class 435, subclass 194.

Group V. Claims 3-4, drawn to a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:117, classified in class 530, subclass 350.

Group VI. Claims 9-10, drawn to a method of obtaining a nucleic acid fragment by hybridization or amplification using the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:113, classified in class 435, subclass 6.

Group VII. Claims 9-10, drawn to a method of obtaining a nucleic acid fragment by hybridization or amplification using the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:114, classified in class 435, subclass 6.

Group VIII. Claims 9-10, drawn to a method of obtaining a nucleic acid fragment by hybridization or amplification using the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:115, classified in class 435, subclass 6.

Group IX. Claims 12-17 and 19-20, drawn to a method for the production of parahydroxybenzoate, classified in class 435, subclass 146.

Applicants provisionally elect Group IX (claims 12-17 and 19-20) without traverse.

The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned directly if such contact will expedite the examination and allowance of the pending claims.

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No fee is believed due with this response. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0220.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mailstop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 23, 2003.



Cathy A. Schetzina